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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 001792

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE  
NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR  
DS/IP/NEA; DRL FOR A/S CRANER  
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN  
USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FFP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER PBTS PHUM KWBG ASEC CASC IS

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: MAY 2, 2005 (1800 HOURS LOCAL) -- ONE  
IDF SOLDIER, ONE PIJ GUNMAN KILLED IN TULKARM-AREA SHOOTOUT

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

**11.** (SBU) Summary. On May 2, one IDF soldier and one PIJ gunman (Shawfiq Abd al-Ghani) were killed in a shootout during an IDF operation in Saida village, by Tulkarm, according to Israeli and Palestinian media. In Gaza, one Palestinian was killed during a gunfight between members of the Eddiri and El Khour families April 30, and two additional Palestinians were injured. End summary.

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West Bank  
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**12.** (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: On May 2, one IDF soldier and one PIJ gunman (Shawfiq Abd al-Ghani) were killed in a shootout during an IDF operation in Saida village, by Tulkarm, according to Israeli and Palestinian media.

-- Injuries: Eight Palestinians and one American peace activist were injured in clashes with Border Police during protests against the separation barrier in Bil'in on May 1, according to Palestinian sources.

-- Injuries: Seven Palestinians were injured in al-Fawar camp, near Hebron, on May 1, in clashes after an IDF incursion, according to Palestinian sources.

-- Injuries: The IDF shot and injured three Palestinians during a raid and stone-throwing clashes in al-Khadr village, by Bethlehem, on May 1, according to Palestinian sources.

-- Injuries: Settlers beat and injured an IDF commander in scuffles during the IDF's arrests of eight settlers in Har Bracha settlement, according to Israeli newspapers (see &Arrests8 below).

-- Arrests: The IDF arrested eight settlers from Har Bracha settlement for throwing stones at Palestinian cars near Nablus, according to Israeli newspapers, which started a riot inside the settlement.

-- Incursion/Arrest: The IDF entered an area of Tulkarm that had been handed over to PA security control on May 1, and arrested a Palestinian alleged to be a PIJ militant preparing for a suicide attack, according to Israeli/Palestinian media.

**13.** (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- PA Interior Minister Nasser Yusif met with Gaza security chiefs on April 30 to discuss improving the security situation, including stopping rocket/mortar firings, banning armed demonstrations and halting drug trafficking.

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Gaza Strip  
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**14.** (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths/Injuries: One Palestinian was killed during a gunfight between members of the Eddiri and El Khour families April 30, and two additional Palestinians were injured.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported four instances of shooting at IDF soldiers April 29-May 1, of which three took place near Neve Dekalim settlement and one took place west of Rafah refugee camp. No injuries were reported.

-- Mortars: The IDF reported that Palestinian militants fired one mortar shell at IDF soldiers near Khan Younis refugee camp, and three mortar shells at Israeli settlers in Ganey Tal and Rafah Yam settlements, April 29-May 1. No injuries

were reported.

-- Explosives: The IDF reported it found and safely detonated a Palestinian-made explosive device north of Sufa crossing May 1.

**15. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS:**

-- According to UNRWA, two PA bulldozers escorted by PA police demolished three large residential buildings under construction in the Bayt Lahia area May 1. The buildings were reportedly owned by PA officials and were illegally built on government lands.

**16. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS/CHECKPOINTS**

-- Route Four (Salah Ed-Din Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was reopened at Abu Khouli on April 28.  
-- The Erez Crossing was open to internationals and diplomats but has been closed to Palestinians since April 25.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was has been closed to Palestinians since April 25.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian workers, but open for the import of aggregates used in construction, April 29-May 2.

-- Karni Terminal was open April 29-May 2 for the import and limited export of commodities.

-- Rafah Terminal was open without age restrictions April 29-May 2.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed, but Toufah checkpoint was open, April 29-May 2.

**17. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

-- According to UNRWA, some 3,000 people demonstrated on the Salah El-Din road late July 29 to show solidarity with the residents of Bayt Hanoun and to protest the ongoing IDF incursion there. The demonstration was reportedly organized by Hamas, Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, and other factions operating in the area.  
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